MUSIC: G. LOVE IS BACK ON THE SAUCE

PAGE 26

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Hart-throb

Reel talk. Kevin Hart talks social media and his critics upon the release of his rom-com, "About Last Night." (And we didn't hate it!) **Valentine's Day.** We round up the holiday's other film releases, and give you a list of films in which romance amazingly and spectacularly failed.

PAGES 15, 16, 18, 20, 22

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1 NEWS

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What's trending at Metro.us

1 'VIDEO: North Carolina school announces closing with "Ice, Ice Baby" '

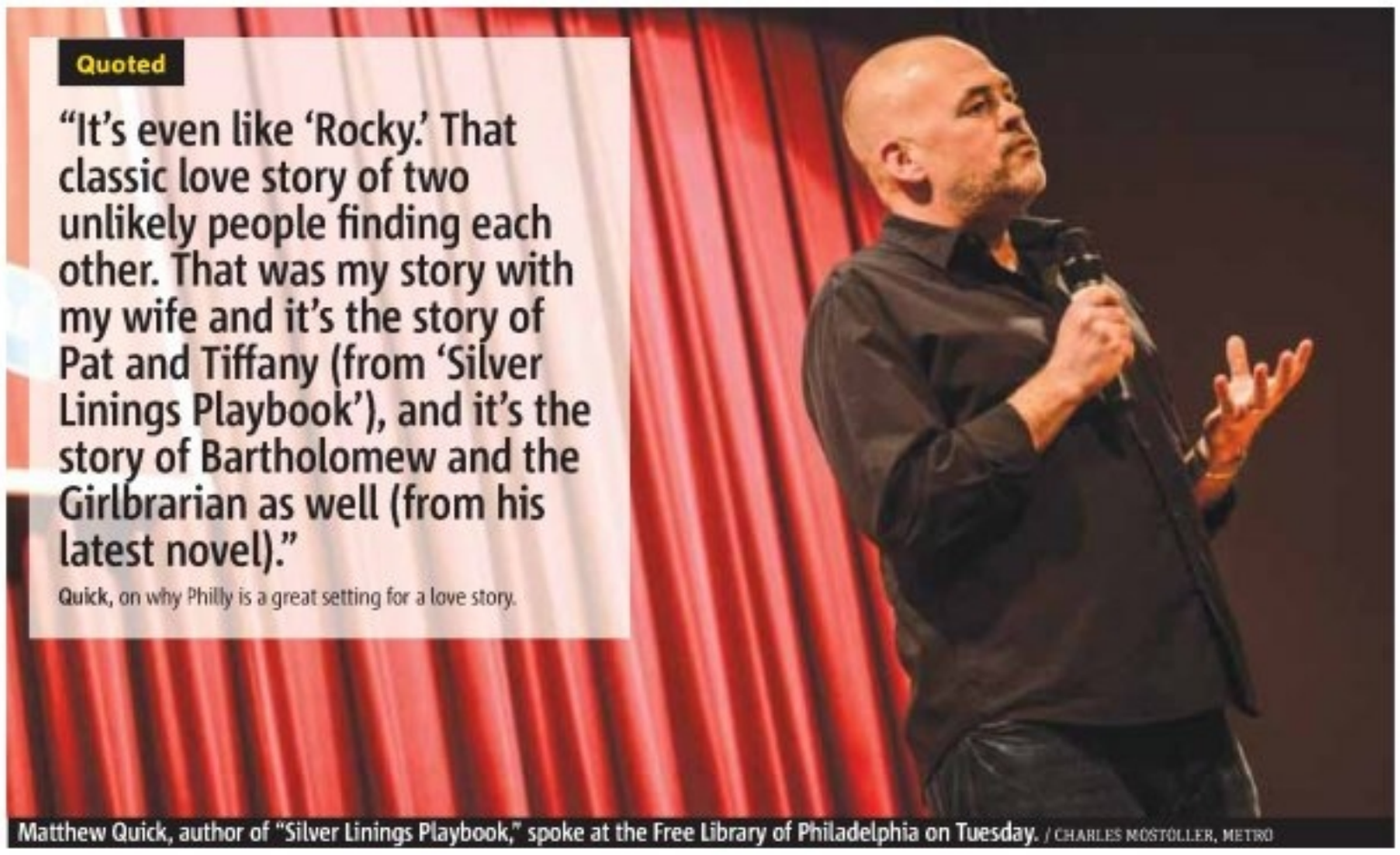
2 'PHOTOS: Awkward figure skating pictures taken during Sochi Winter Olympics'

3 'VIDEO: 'Star Wars' AT-AT Walkers fire lasers at Olympic skiers at Sochi'

To our readers

Metro will not publish Monday, Feb. 17 in recognition of the Presidents Day holiday, but be sure to stay informed by visiting us at Metro.us. We will resume our regular publishing schedule on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

Best-selling author chooses Philly love



Quoted

"It's even like 'Rocky.' That classic love story of two unlikely people finding each other. That was my story with my wife and it's the story of Pat and Tiffany (from 'Silver Linings Playbook'), and it's the story of Bartholomew and the Girlbrarian as well (from his latest novel)."

Quick, on why Philly is a great setting for a love story.

Matthew Quick, author of "Silver Linings Playbook," spoke at the Free Library of Philadelphia on Tuesday. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Yo, Matthew. The Philly-native and New York Times best-selling author talks about why his home is the perfect love story setting.

Matthew Quick is a softy.

The author of the New York Times best-seller "The Silver Linings Playbook," and similar titles that revolve around the love of two quirky people, sets his unique stories in and around the Philadelphia area.

With the lover's holiday upon us, Quick, who was born in Olney but raised in South Jersey, reflected upon his choice of setting in his unique brand of love stories.

"I think there is a certain authenticity for me because it's where I fell in love," said Quick, 40. "I met my wife (pianist and composer Alicia Bessette) at LaSalle [University], and this was 1993, and she was 17 and I was 19, and it's where we fell in love, so I write about Philly not necessarily because it's a setting for love, but it's because it's what I know."

"And maybe because I love the city so much," he added.

Quick held the launch of his latest novel, "The Good Luck of Right Now," at the Central Library on Tuesday.

Quoted

Philly is a city where people rub elbows. It's not as sectioned off as other cities."

Quick

Much like his other novels, his latest focuses on characters that are just a little bit off. And his hometown makes a great setting for two strange people to meet and fall in love.

"Philadelphia is a city where people rub elbows," Quick said. "It's not as sectioned off as other cities. I feel like it's a place where people mix, all different types of people, and when you have a good mix sometimes it's good for the romance as well, good for meeting people."

So, does his inspiration for these misfit-type characters come from South Jersey or Philadelphia?

"I think both sides are full of colorful characters," he said. "And, maybe that's why I love both sides so much."

TOMMY ROWAN
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Pedestrians trudge through the snowstorm. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

White out. The latest storm helped set new city snowfall records

If anything, this winter has made history.

Counting Thursday's snowfall, this winter broke the city's 130-year-old record for the most consecutive snowstorms with 6-plus inches of snow with a total of four.

Heading into Thursday, this winter dumped a total of 43.3 inches of snow on the city.

This latest storm, which brought an additional 18 inches into the city, made it the fifth most snowiest winter in city history.

And we still have a month left. METRO

On foot

The alleged thief / PPD

Police seek Ogontz purse-snatcher

An 18-year-old woman's purse was snatched Monday in Ogontz by a man who followed her out of a store.

Northwest detectives are seeking the suspect, who can be seen in surveillance footage at a store where he sighted the female victim before reportedly following her outside.

Police say on Monday at 4 p.m., the suspect followed the woman out of a store heading east on the 2100 block of Chelten Avenue.

The suspect allegedly walked up behind the victim, grabbed her bag from her left shoulder and knocked her to the ground before fleeing on foot.

The suspect is described as a black male, about 5-feet, 8-inches tall and 200 pounds with a scruffy beard. METRO

Fatal blaze

'Hoarder' dies in North Philadelphia fire at home

An elderly man described as a 'hoarder' died in a fire in North Philadelphia on Wednesday, reports say.

The fatal fire happened about 11:20 a.m. in a row home on the 3000 block of North 9th Street.

Firefighters arrived to find heavy flames showing from the home.

They found the man's body during a secondary search. METRO

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Fattah, Hughes wants uninsured to take action

Week of action. As the deadline to enroll in Obamacare nears, elected officials are pushing for higher enrollments.

Congressman Chaka Fattah and state Sen. Vincent Hughes will participate in a kick-off event Saturday for a "week of action" to help Philadelphians get health insurance on the government exchanges.

"This is the beginning of the final push from right now through March 31," said Bill England, state director of Enroll America Pennsylvania.

"Get the word out, get your questions answered, and get the insurance you deserve," is how England described the purpose of the week of action.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 123,681 people are enrolled on the government exchange in Pennsylvania as of Feb. 1 and about 3.3 million people nationally.

"We find that people don't quite understand some of the nuances, and because they don't understand the nuances, they may think this doesn't apply to them," said Patricia Coulter, president and CEO of the Urban League of Philadelphia, of the Affordable Care Act.

"We want to make sure people understand how to access the healthcare and how to get the information they need to be able to sign up," she said. "Our effort comes down to one of helping to mobilize people."

Enrollment events

- **Feb. 15** at the Shop Rite at Fox Street and Roberts Avenue
- **Feb. 16** at Bright Hope Baptist Church at 1601 N. 12th St.
- **Feb. 20** at Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia, 5412 N. Fifth St.
- **Feb. 22** at Rising Sun Health Center 5675 North Front St.

Open enrollment into the government exchanges ceases March 31 until October. Uninsured individuals will have to pay a tax.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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CO2

Carbon monoxide sickens two

Paramedics in New Castle, Del., discovered two men, aged 39 and 66, who were sickened by carbon monoxide poisoning after trying to use a charcoal grill to heat their home.

Both men were hospitalized and listed in stable condition. METRO

Cause unknown

Cabin, two centuries old, burns

An old log cabin along the Schuylkill River in Berks County went up in flames as snow covered the Delaware Valley early Thursday.

Firefighters had difficulty putting out the fire due to the weather. METRO

It's all downhill from here

A woman enjoys a sled ride down the Philadelphia Museum of Art front steps after a large snowstorm blanketed the Delaware Valley on Thursday. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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Circus brings 'Legends' to Philly

In town. The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus visits this weekend. The show runs nightly through Feb. 16.

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus is in town with their new show "Legends." / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

The one and only Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus is back in Philadelphia this weekend. Though both shows were canceled on Thursday, there are still eight performances left at the Wells Fargo Center.

This year's performance is a little different, as the group brings its "Legends" show to town. Ringmaster Johnathan Lee Iverson, who became the circus' first African-American ringmaster at the age of 22 in 1999, will guide Paulo the Legend Seeker on his "quest to discover real, living legends from around the world," according to a news release.

"For this edition," said show producer Nicole Feld, "we've combined a number of mythical themes and stories into a lavish production of sight and sound unlike any other show we have ever created."

During the production, Paulo meets the Pegasus and the Unicorn but doesn't leave out other Ringling friends like big cat presenter Alexander Lacey, the Riders of the Wind Cossach horsemen, the motorcycle daredevils and more.

Families can go to the show's arena floor at Wells Fargo Center for an interactive up-close experience in the Ringmaster Zone about an hour before the main show begins.

Circus fans can learn how to juggle and balance and even meet some of the performers, get autographs and take photographs.

VIP tickets are available for a behind-the-curtain look at the show. For an additional fee, families can walk on the Ringling Red Carpet with Ringmaster Iverson and other stars, step inside the Globe of Steel, take photos on the ringmaster's float and have an up-close encounter with a show elephant.

The new show also has hair-hanging artists, Asian elephants, a 20-acrobat troupe and a high-flying trapeze act.

Those with tickets to Thursday's canceled shows can see another show this weekend.

Quoted

"We searched the world for the best of the best and put them together in an unforgettable show."
Field

CHRISTINA PACIOLLA
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Responses from our Health Specialists

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Snow disrupts commutes in New York City on Thursday. / GETTY IMAGES

Severe storms taking a toll on families, schools in Northeast

Disrupted. About 5,771 domestic flights were canceled Thursday, according to FlightAware.

A winter storm that froze the Southeast in its tracks pushed north Thursday, with driving winds and heavy snow snarling travel and closing many schools from Washington, D.C., to New Hampshire, creating havoc for winter-weary parents. Hundreds of thousands of residents in Georgia and North and South Carolina hit by a heavy blast of ice a day earlier remained without power as the storm made its way up the coast, closing much of the nation's capital and threatening to drop up to 18 inches of snow in some areas.

The repeated storms are taking a toll on schools and families, as snow-related cancellations left parents scrambling to find child-care options and administrators looking at making up lost days by extending classes into the summer.

New York City Public Schools, which have taken only one snow day this year, proved a glaring exception and remained open. REUTERS

Grounded

1K

About 1,000 people spent the night on cots and mats at Charlotte Douglas International Airport in North Carolina, according to officials

'Catch me if you can'

Biker leads Texas police on merry chase

The chase is on between San Antonio police and a motorcycle rider who posted a video on Facebook that shows him zooming through interstate traffic at speeds of up to 100 mph with a message: "Catch me if you can."

The police, who are calling the biker a high-priority suspect, posted clips on their own Facebook page showing him weaving among cars on a busy highway. REUTERS

Beverages. Lawmaker proposes sugary drink warning labels

All sodas and other sugar-sweetened drinks sold in California would be required to carry warning labels for obesity, diabetes and tooth decay under a bill introduced in Sacramento on Thursday, backed by several public health advocacy groups.

If passed, caloric drinks would join tobacco and alcohol products in carrying health warning labels in California, the nation's most populous state and a legislative trend-setter.

Proponents say the first-of-its-kind effort takes aim at the national epidemic: 35.7 percent of American adults and 16.9 percent of children aged 2 to 19 are obese, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A growing body of research has identified sugary drinks as the biggest contributors to added, empty calories in the American diet, and as a major culprit in a range of costly health problems associated with being overweight. REUTERS

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Opinion

TOM FOREMAN

FOREMAN IS A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN.

CNN=POLITICS

Some scientists say Earth is still emerging from the last Ice Age, while others suggest we're heading into a new one.

After this winter, I'm beginning to side with the latter group. Seems like every time the alarm clock rings, I'm getting another warning about apocalyptic cold and snow coming down like Putin on a borscht bar.

Congress periodically holds hearings on the climate, and after the East Coast was walloped this week I assume they'll do it again. Mind you, if Colorado was buried under a thousand feet of ice, many on this side of the Mississippi would shrug and say, "It's February!"

Still, this relentless winter has lawmakers practically hoarding canned goods and it's put an edge on even the tony D.C. restaurant scene. "Donner? Party of six?"

I'm not sure what these Congressional types will ever do even if they reach a consensus about global weather patterns, especially if they decide a deep freeze is coming. I suppose mandating seat warmers in every car would be good, and if they can OK cloning woolly mammoths, that would be fantastic. Seriously, wouldn't you love to see those bad boys roaming the countryside again?

Of course, if a big chill is really underway, maybe that will happen naturally. As it is, I find myself with an uncontrollable urge to buy sweaters, my neighbor's cats seem to be developing suspiciously long fangs, and I've heard unconfirmed reports of wolves coming down from the hills to snatch unwary commuters right out of the Starbucks line. "Hey Brittany, I have your latte. ... Brittany?"

I guess in the meantime there is nothing for us to do but endure.

Some people are sleeping at their offices, and they don't even work for dot-com start-ups! Zombie apocalypse? Bring it on. It's the snowmen we need to fear. (The horror. The horror.)

The neighbor's cat / COLOURBOX

Quoted

I've heard unconfirmed reports of wolves coming down from the hills to snatch unwary commuters right out of the Starbucks line.

Memo

NSA: Snowden scammed passwords from colleagues

A National Security Agency civilian employee resigned last month after telling the FBI he had inadvertently let former contractor Edward Snowden use his password to access information he was not authorized to see, an NSA memo sent to Congress shows.

The NSA told the Senate Judiciary Committee in the memo that two other workers affiliated with the NSA, including an active duty military member and an unidentified contractor, had also been "implicated" in the matter.

The memo said the contractor and military member had been stripped of their access to classified information and secure work spaces last August, but it would be up to their employers to determine "further accountability."

The existence of the memo, dated Feb. 10 and marked "Unclassified/For Official Use Only" was first reported by NBC News late on Wednesday.

Reuters previously reported that Snowden had used login credentials and passwords provided unwittingly by colleagues at a spy base in Hawaii to gain access to some classified materials. REUTERS

Quoted

"Unbeknownst to the civilian, Mr. Snowden was able to capture the password, allowing him even greater access to classified information."

The memo says

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Comcast takeover of Time Warner Cable to reshape US pay TV

Big time. The deal would put Comcast in 19 of the 20 largest U.S. television markets.

The new cable giant would still tower over U.S. satellite competitor DirecTV, which has about 20 million video customers. / GETTY IMAGES

Comcast Corp.'s proposed $45.2 billion takeover of Time Warner Cable Inc. could face close scrutiny from U.S. antitrust regulators because of the deal's potential to reshape the country's pay TV and broadband markets.

The company resulting from the merger of the two top U.S. cable service providers would boast a footprint spanning from New York to Los Angeles, with a near 30 percent share of the pay TV market as well as a strong position in providing broadband Internet services.

The friendly takeover came as a surprise after months of public pursuit of Time Warner Cable by smaller rival Charter Communications Inc., and immediately raised questions as to whether it would be blocked by the Department of Justice or the Federal Communications Commission.

Time Warner Cable shares jumped 6.8 percent to $144.50, still substantially short of the $158.82 per share value that Comcast put on its offer, indicating investors' worries about regulatory clearance. Comcast shares fell 3.5 percent, cutting the per-share offer value to $154.

"Only Comcast could have paid this price and the combined company, if approved, would tilt the balance of power at every negotiating table in media and content and broadband and equipment industries."

Comcast Corp.'s proposed $45.2 billion takeover of Time Warner Cable Inc. could face close scrutiny from U.S. antitrust regulators because of the deal's potential to reshape the country's pay TV and broadband markets. REUTERS

Quoted

"I don't know if the deal is too big to fail to be approved, but it is definitely too big to sail through either the Department of Justice or the FCC without serious, serious examination."

Reed Hundt
Former FCC Chairman

What a doll. Barbie to grace Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issue cover

Red-blooded beauties, step aside: A plastic Barbie doll will join a generation of iconic stunners next week in the Sports Illustrated 50th Anniversary Swimsuit edition.

Striking a pose in the black-and-white swimsuit she wore for her debut in 1959, Barbie takes her place alongside a host of legendary SI Swimsuit alumni as part of a new promotional campaign with the magazine, Mattel officials said, adding that it uses the hashtag "#Unapologetic."

"Barbie is a legend in her own right, with more than 150 careers and a brand valued at $3 billion," Mattel spokeswoman Michelle Chidoni said. "She is in great company with the other legends, such as Heidi Klum and Christie Brinkley, to name a few."

Barbie / GETTY IMAGES

The cover was unveiled on the late-night TV talk show "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" on Thursday and is due to hit newsstands on Tuesday. REUTERS

Social media

Facebook offers gender identity

For the first time, Facebook is letting users identify themselves as a gender other than male and female.

The basic user profile for members in the U.S. now includes a customizable category among the gender types that users must select, the world's No. 1 Internet social network announced on Wednesday, the day the feature became available for U.S. members using the site's English-language version.

Those who select that option can select up to 10 gender identifications, including "transgender," "intersex" and "fluid." REUTERS

Nobody names baby into a corner

What's in a name? In northwestern Mexico, officials say it could potentially lead to a lifetime of bullying. Parents in the state of Sonora can no longer opt to name their children Scrotum, Terminator, USNAVY or Facebook. The 61 banned names include technology-inspired monikers like Twitter and Yahoo; fictional characters Harry Potter, James Bond and Rambo; and surgical terms like Circumcision. Children will also be spared being dubbed Virgin, Hitler, Email, Burger King, Christmas Day, Robocop and Rolling Stone. "It's about protecting children," said Cristina Ramirez, the director of Sonora's Civil Registry. "We want to make sure children's names don't get them bullied in school." Ramirez anticipates the list will expand in future as officials discover more objectionable names. **REUTERS** /GETTY IMAGES

Out in the cold

Italy PM Letta to resign

Italian center-left leader Matteo Renzi forced party rival Enrico Letta to resign as prime minister on Thursday after criticizing his government's failure to pass major reforms, opening the way for Italy's third administration in a year.

Letta's decision to quit came after the Democratic Party (PD), the largest party in the ruling coalition, supported a call by its 39-year-old leader Renzi for a more ambitious government to pull Italy out of its economic slump.

"Italy cannot live in a situation of uncertainty and instability. We are at a crossroads," Renzi told a meeting of the PD's 140-strong leadership committee.

Letta plans to tender his resignation to President Giorgio Napolitano on Friday. **REUTERS**

Euthanasia

Belgium gives 'right-to-die' to terminally ill children

Belgium became the first country to allow euthanasia for terminally ill children of any age on Thursday when its lower house of parliament passed new "right-to-die" legislation by a large majority.

The law goes beyond Dutch legislation that set a minimum age of 12 for children judged mature enough to decide to end their lives. It has popular support in Belgium, where adult euthanasia became legal in 2002.

The Christian Democrats, although members of Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo's coalition, voted against. Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders denounced the law ahead of the vote in a rare joint declaration. **REUTERS**

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Winter Olympics.
US men sweep ski slopestyle podium

Medal count

	G	S	B	T
1. Norway	4	3	6	13
2. Holland	4	3	5	12
USA	4	2	6	12
4. Russia	2	5	4	11
5. Germany	7	2	1	10
Canada	4	4	2	10
7. Austria	1	4	0	5
Sweden	0	4	1	5
9. Switz.	3	0	1	4
France	2	0	2	4

1 The United States is really happy the IOC added slopestyle events to the Olympics. **Joss Christensen**, who'd never made a podium in six World Cup starts, took a surprising gold in men's ski slopestyle. Though it was no surprise, American teammates Gus Kenworthy and Nick Goepper followed with silver and bronze.

2 The Norwegian curling team was swept off the ice by rival Sweden Thursday, but they looked mighty stylish in defeat.

3 China's **Li Jianrou** also came up with a surprise gold in women's short track speed skating's 500 meters — and broke down in tears after the upset.

4 Reigning world champion Patrick Chan of Canada was edged out after the short program in men's figure skating by 19-year-old Japanese rising star **Yuzuru Hanyu**. Fellow teen, Jason Brown of the U.S., enters the long program in sixth.

5 Americans Heather Richardson and Brittany Bowe, the world record holder, were expected to challenge for 1,000-meter long track gold. Instead, China's **Zhang Hong** won, with both Americans off the podium.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

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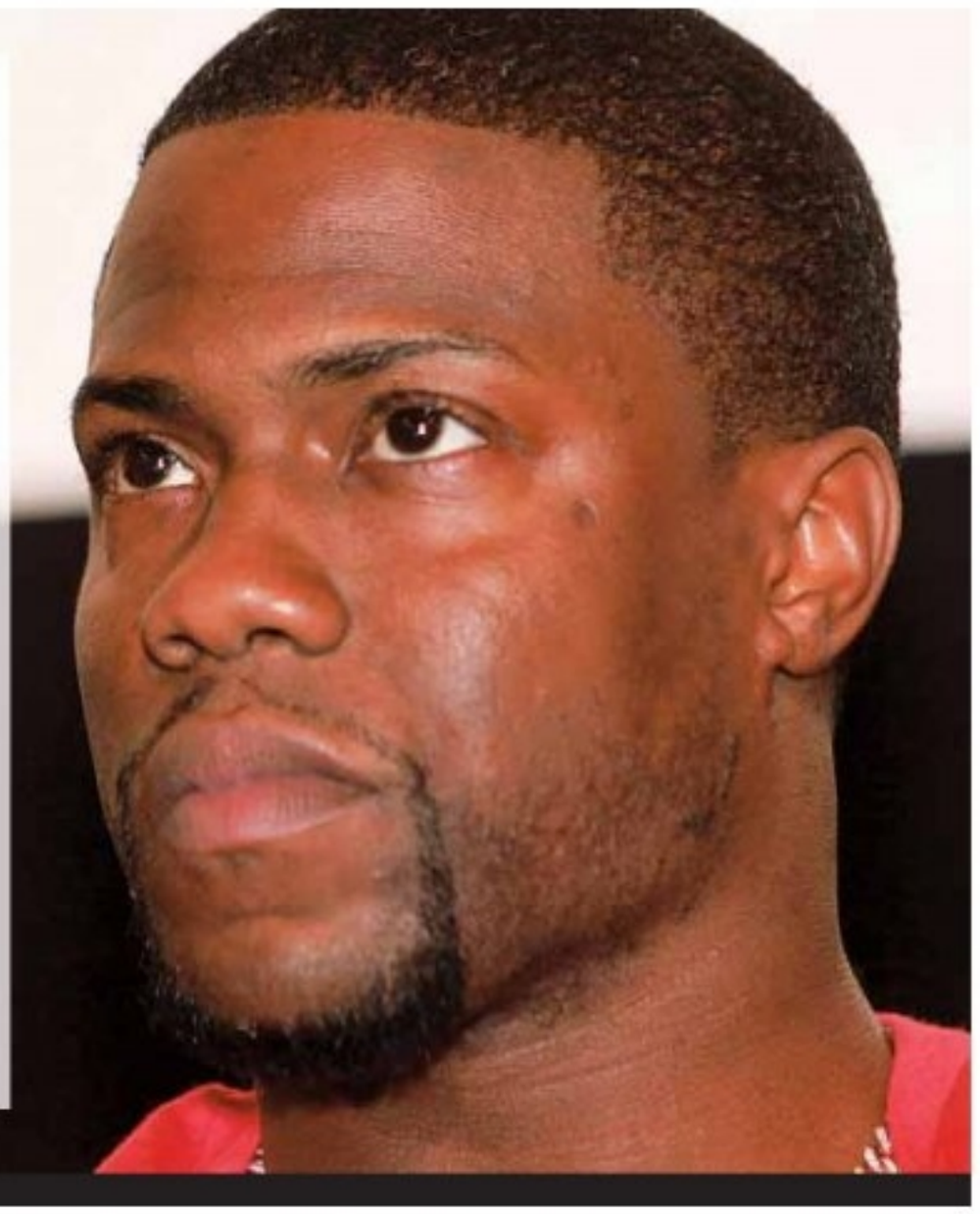
KEVIN HART

The comic/actor talks making himself available to his fans and having a thick shell against critics.

EVERYONE'S A CRITIC



Kevin Hart has become a star of comedy, film and social media. / WIREIMAGE

Kevin Hart is already having a pretty decent 2014, with last month's "Ride Along" breaking January box office records to bring in more than $90 million worldwide in its first three weeks of release. He's hoping that success continues in February with "About Last Night." One thing is for sure: He's not letting bad reviews get to him — even when the critics are trying to get his attention.

You're incredibly active on social media.
I'm very serious about it. This is not something I take for granted. I'm very, very, very committed to social media and interacting with my fans the way that I do. It's something that I think people really, really take for granted, and they shouldn't. It's free promotion, but at the same time it keeps you in contact with your fan base.

Kevin Hart and Michael Ealy enjoy some bro time together in "About Last Night." / MATT KENNEDY

When did it first occur to you to utilize it so much?
Well, from the word "jump." When I first saw my numbers going to what they grew to, I said I would be a fool to not dive in as much as I could, because this is basically promotion that the studio doesn't have. This is you having a direct connect with your fans. When I say to my fans, "First 200 people to meet me at Applebee's, I want to treat you," they're going to come. And those 200 people in there get to meet me, connect with me, talk to me. You have to have ways of showing that you are giving back — "Thank you, guys, for what you do, which is support me." I'm not a ghost. I'm not the legend that you never see.

I saw someone included your Twitter handle in a bad review of "Ride Along."
A critic's job is to critique.

Sticks and stones

How to deal

How do you ignore all the negative stuff?
I laugh at it. Listen, I understand that with any success comes a certain level of negativity. It's just, are you a person that feeds into it or are you a person that smiles and shrugs it off and walks away from it? I think that the ones that survive and make it are the ones who can laugh and go, "That's crazy, look what people say" and then still move on. You know, for every 30 people that love and support you, you're going to have three to five that hate you. It's what life is, it's the nature of what we put ourselves in. It ain't all going to be pretty.

At the end of the day, as an actor, if you allow that stuff to get to you, you're a fool. But you've got to ask yourself, how do critics feel when they critique something, they trash it and then it shows up and it's a record-breaking box office hit? Then you just have to go back into your critic hole and critique some more. But I don't knock it — it's what you're paid to do. But if [the film is] getting an A cinema score — which means everybody's walking out happy — then that means you have to question yourself, what you like and where your expectations are. It's like when I did "Soul Plane" — people judged that. "Soul Plane" was supposed to be a stupid movie about stereotypes. You're picking the wrong movie to critique.

NED EHRBAR
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2 CULTURE

Goin' back

Before he was

Kevin Hart is one of the biggest comics and movie stars right now. But fame didn't come right away. Here's some early roles:

'DEATH OF A DYNASTY' (2003):
In this rap scene parody by Roc-A-Fella co-founder Damon Dash, Hart — in his third film — plays five roles, including P. Diddy.

'NOT EASILY BROKEN' (2009):
All comics eventually find their way into a drama, but technically Hart has already done that, playing lead Morris Chestnut's pal "Tree."

'PARTY DOWN' (2009):
As he was getting bigger, Hart guest-starred on an episode of the cult show, playing a rapper hired to entertain a Sweet 16 party.

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Apologies to David Mamet

Remake. The playwright suffers another faithless (but not terrible) adaptation of one of his greats.

Kevin Hart and Regina Hall play the fun couple in the "About Last Night" remake. / MATT KENNEDY

The 1986 rom-com "About Last Night..." claimed to be an adaptation of David Mamet's coarse, cynical 1974 play "Sexual Perversity in Chicago." But all it really kept was the opening — a dude talk tete-a-tete about the previous night's escapades — plus Chicago. "About Last Night" is even less faithful. In addition to chucking the title ellipsis, it's set in L.A. And though it starts the same, it quickly devolves into Kevin Hart ad libs about "whiskey d—" and someone having "the John Legend of penises."

The bare bones setup remains: There are two men — nice Danny (Michael Ealy) and crude Bernie (Hart) — and two women — nice Debbie (Joy Bryant) and crude Joan (Regina Hall). The crude ones hook up first, followed by the nice ones. Initially it seems we'll be getting tonal whiplash, jerked back and forth between the grotesquely over-the-top and the sickly sweet.

But around the second act, Danny and Debbie both relax, reveal pockets of humor and the picture settles into a pleasant groove. While Bernie and Joan angrily split, Danny and Debbie move in together, only to find that cohabitation brings forth unexpected stresses and intimacy issues. The screenplay, by "Bachelorette"'s Leslye Headland, aims for a balance between broad yucks and real insight, which luckily is not the same as having heart. Hijinks remain, although having Danny hit up Halloween dressed as Ike Turner — opposite Debbie's Tina — is a special kind of miscalculation.

Only in the third act does it fumble. It's not insincere, but it is semi-sincere, as though it had no interest in rotely moving our lead couple from Splitsville back into each other's arms, so it didn't really try. (The end credits come up unusually fast, as though everyone couldn't wait to get out of there.) The 1986 film isn't too hot, but it does handle some of the details better, and it features one of the few excellent turns from Demi Moore. The scene where she confronts boyfriend Rob Lowe (before he was funny), more concerned than hurt or angry about not knowing much about him despite their sharing an apartment, is one bit that should have made the remake crossover.

But the actors help. Ealy is unfairly good-looking, but he has a genuine shyness that makes him charming and legitimately modest, not faux-modest. He and Bryant play the boring couple, but they have just enough personality that their story doesn't lead to thumb-twiddling as we await Hart and/or Hall's barnstorming return. The best part of the movie: no Kevin Hart short jokes.)

Review

'About Last Night'

Director: Steve Pink

Stars: Kevin Hart, Michael Ealy

Rating: R

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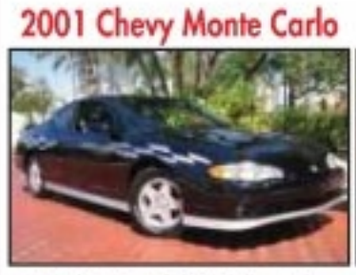
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Down with love

It's Valentine's Day, which doesn't mean you need to torture yourself with a film affirming the power of love. Instead, snuggle up with one that speaks to the other extreme. Here are some anti-romances to warm your heart during that chilliest of Hallmark holidays.

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

'Gone with the Wind'

(1939): Scarlett O'Hara loves Ashley Wilkes but settles for Rhett Butler. After years of being jerked around, he finally leaves, complete with one of the most badass eff-yous in the movies.

'We Won't Grow Old Together'

(1972): As unforgiving and unsentimental as its title, Maurice Pialat's French drama depicts the last throes of a relationship between a cad and a doormat who never should have met.

'Modern Romance'

(1981): Albert Brooks is Woody Allen if Woody Allen didn't love himself — he's a self-absorbed monster who targets mates the way a cat does a mouse. His second directorial feature begins with him breaking up with his girlfriend (Kathryn Harrold). He immediately regrets this, then spends half the movie trying to win her back. Once she relents, he instantly suspects her of infidelity. Stanley Kubrick adored it.

'Prick Up Your Ears'

(1987): Was your last relationship crap? You got off easy. Playwright Joe Orton (Gary Oldman) got a hammer to the head after mentally torturing the hell out of his boyfriend (Alfred Molina). Ain't love grand?

'The War of the Roses'

(1989): There are lots of movies where couples go from amour to outright hatred, but only one where they bust out weapons and fight to the death inside a darkened mansion. Director Danny DeVito never softens up, not even at the end, when it seems rich suburbanites-turned-psychopaths Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner might have a change of heart. They don't.

'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind'

(2004): Oh, if we could erase the bad memories of a failed relationship, as Jim Carrey's sad sack does in Charlie Kaufman and Michel Gondry's manic breakup fantasy.

'The Break-Up'

(2006): Warning: In a movie called "The Break-Up," two attractive stars (Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn) actually break up. It's a low-stakes, improv-heavy "The War of the Roses," with both parties refusing to leave the swank Chicago apartment they scored together. But don't underestimate a high-profile comedy that doesn't wuss out on the sad stuff — although it's best to ignore the tacked-on coda that suggests a reunion.

'Blue Valentine'

(2010): First they're falling in love. Then they're breaking up. Then they're having hot sex. Then they're having crap sex. This look at a couple (Michelle Williams and Ryan Gosling) goes back and forth between their start and their bitter end.

'Blue Is the Warmest Color'

(2012): Great as this is at capturing first love, it's even sharper at capturing the fallout, when one's ex has the nerve to not only move on, but find someone better and more mature. Love, as Def Leppard says, bites.

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Talking to the animals

Review

'Winter's Tale'

Director: Akiva Goldsman

Stars: Colin Farrell, Jessica Brown Findlay

Rating: PG-13

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

Colin Farrell hangs with a flying horse in the romantic fantasy "Winter's Tale." / WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Lit adaptation. Colin Farrell does his best to give gravitas to a very silly romantic fantasy.

There are few people in movies today better at playing earnest than Colin Farrell. If you the viewer don't believe in the material he's trying to sell, you believe that he believes in it. In other words, he's perfect to put at the helm of the urban fantasy-love story "Winter's Tale." He's perhaps the only person who can deliver a line like "I'm pulled to her, like air when I'm under the water," and make it sound basically OK. But Farrell's not good enough to talk to a flying horse. Nobody's that good.

Then again, perhaps this all reads better on the page. Mark Helprin's sprawling 1983 best-seller has been whittled down to a semi-comprehensible love story that spans a century. Farrell's Peter Lake is an orphaned thief in early 20th century New York who falls madly for Beverly Penn ("Downton Abbey"'s Jessica Brown Findlay). She's a whimsical society waif beatifically dying of a movie version of consumption that renders her body literally hot. She's never been kissed, and Peter would be the man to do that — were he not being pursued by a mob boss who's also a demon (Russell Crowe).

This is a madly ambitious tale. Perhaps it would be worth defending if it weren't for its filmmaker. Akiva Goldsman won an Oscar for writing "A Beautiful Mind," an accolade that tried to obscure such previous credits as "Batman & Robin." He was at one point Hollywood's worst screenwriter, his name a promise of brainless junk and groaning puns.

His directorial debut finds him tripping over dense mythology, struggling to turn a mishmash into a simple love story. His decision to parcel out information winds up backfiring on him, as characters rush to explain magical things that just happened. Sometimes they don't even do that: When Crowe and gang find themselves unable to leave the five boroughs of New York City, he just shrugs and mumbles, "It's the rules."

The tone is a bigger problem. Farrell believes in this, as does Brown Findlay. Everyone else seems lost. Crowe amuses himself with an inexplicable Lucky Charms Irish accent, while Jennifer Connelly struggles to do something with an underwritten mother of a cancer kid. (Yes, it's the kind of film that falls back on dying kids.) Eva Marie Saint swings by to class up the joint for five minutes.

But no amount of pretty faces and living legends can make up for a drippy fantasy that crams the narration track with multiple claims about how "we are all connected." It's not a swooning romance; it's the cinematic equivalent of a unicorn poster. It dares you to laugh at it, so you might as well oblige.

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See it before it's remade

Drama. "Like Father, Like Son" is a thoughtful look at children who were switched at birth.

"Like Father, Like Son" considers what happens when families discover their children were switched at birth. / IFC FILMS

Japanese filmmaker Hirokazu Koreeda is one of the gentlest, least judgmental forces in the business, which makes him ideal for exploring, without the need for hard answers, subjects like death ("After Life"), family dynamics ("Still Walking") and childhood ("Nobody Knows," "I Wish"). That makes him a perfect fit to tackle an issue without an easy solution: what to do after it's discovered that two children have been switched at birth.

Two families — one middle-class business types; the other small business owners — discover that their sons have been mismatched. They spend the rest of the film wondering what to do: switch them back, keep each kid with the family who has raised them or dream up some third option.

There's a sort of end point in mind from the beginning, but Koreeda remains more interested in the ever-shifting relations between the very different families. Issues of class come into play. The more well-off family struggles with their snobbery, most notably the father (Masaharu Fukuyama), who finds himself insulting the more hippie-ish people with whom he's been forced into knowing. But even with a tighter story structure than he's used to, the ever-curious side of Koreeda wins out. No doubt his sensitivity will be missed with the in-the-works Steven Spielberg remake.

Review

'Like Father, Like Son'

Director: Hirokazu Koreeda

Stars: Masaharu Fukuyama, Machiko Ono

Rating: NR

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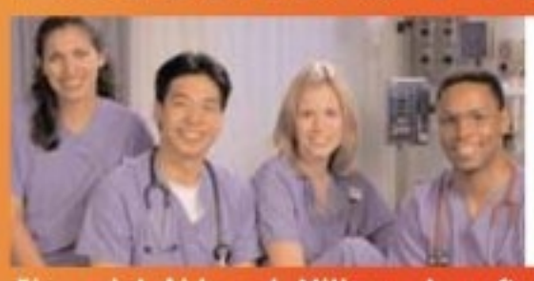

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Gabriella Wilde and Alex Pettyfer romantically neck in the back of a pickup truck in the "Endless Love" remake. / QUANTRELL D. COLBERT

Don't worry, it ends

Another remake. The "Endless Love" redo is more Nicholas Sparks than the sickly original.

When filmmaker John Waters, usually a champion of all things campy and trashy, refers to a film as "awful" and "excruciating," you know it has problems.

That's what he once said about "Endless Love," the 1981 adaptation of Scott Spencer's 1979 novel, one of his favorite books. If you've seen the notorious film, you'll understand what made Waters' jaws so tight. Director Franco Zeffirelli — who already tackled doomed young love when he adapted "Romeo and Juliet" in 1968 — took Spencer's tale of intense sexual obsession and made it ridiculous and histrionic. The hopelessly wooden Martin Hewitt was the unhinged youth whose undying love for a girl (Brooke Shields) brought destruction to her whole family. Of course, even if you haven't seen the movie, you've spent your whole life hearing the Oscar-nominated, Lionel Richie-Diana Ross duet that served as the movie's theme song.

The new adaptation of "Love" doesn't even have a new theme song, nor does it seem to bear any resemblance to Spencer's novel or Zeffirelli's original film. Despite leaving in a few familiar moments (there is still a love scene by a fireplace), director Shana Feste ("Country Strong") goes for a full revamp. Alex Pettyfer and Gabriella Wilde play the main teen lovebirds, who, unlike the original lovebirds, fall in love AFTER they graduate high school. And instead of David coming from an affluent family and Jade being the product of a bohemian household, this one has Jade as the introverted daughter of rich parents (Bruce Greenwood and Joely Richardson), while David is the son of a single, grease monkey dad (Robert Patrick).

Fortunately, this version of "Love" does stick to the original story's central conflict, as Jade's dad comes between their love. Irrational to the point of being downright sociopathic, Jade's father is the one who goes off the rails, not David. Despite having a checkered past with the law, the movie makes Pettyfer's David out to be too earnest, too polite and too swoony to become a lovesick stalker.

Safe and predictable, there is nothing remotely surprising (and therefore interesting) about this rudimentary remake. The movie is so simple and sappy in its plotting that it seems more suited for the Hallmark Channel than the big screen. It also doesn't take much to see that it's sampling more from the work of Nicholas Sparks than Spencer's book. Since there isn't a movie adaptation of a Sparks novel coming out this February, as it seems to be the case every year, this movie jumps on this opportunity and envisions how Sparks would've handled "Love" if he had written it.

This "Endless Love" may not be as much of a disaster as the virtually unwatchable original. But, just like that movie, it still doesn't do right by the damn book.

Review

'Endless Love'

Director: Shana Feste

Stars: Gabriella Wilde, Alex Pettyfer

Rating: PG-13

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DEVIL'S DUE (R) 9:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

ENDLESS LOVE (PG-13) 10:55, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

FROZEN (PG) 11:05, 1:45. Digital Presentation

I, FRANKENSTEIN (PG-13) 7:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

I, FRANKENSTEIN 3D (PG-13) 5:30, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptiv;RealID 3D

JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG-13) 4:30, 7:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) 1:45, 7:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealID 3D

THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) 11:00, 12:15, 2:45, 4:25, 5:25, 8:00, 9:30, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00. Digital Presentation;SFF-Sensory Friendly Film

THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) 10:45, 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

THE NUT JOB (PG) 10:35, 12:50, 3:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

RIDE ALONG (PG-13) Fri 11:20, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 1:50-4:35-7:15-10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:20-1:50-4:35-7:15-10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

ROBOCOP (PG-13) 11:15, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

ROBOCOP: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation;IMAX; Sun 12:00-2:50-5:40-8:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation;IMAX

VAMPIRE ACADEMY (PG-13) 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:25. Digital Presentation

WINTER'S TALE (PG-13) 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:25, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

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12 YEARS A SLAVE (R) 12:15, 6:05.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation

ABOUT LAST NIGHT (R) Fri and Sat 10:00, 10:50, 11:40, 12:30, 1:20, 2:10, 3:00, 3:50, 4:40, 5:30, 6:20, 6:45, 7:10, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:20, 9:40, 10:05, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 11:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Fri and Sat 12:10-12:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-10:50-11:40-12:30-1:20-2:10-3:00-3:50-4:40-5:30-6:20-6:45-7:10-7:30-8:00-8:30-9:00-9:20-9:40-10:05-10:30-11:00-11:30-11:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 12:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) 9:45, 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES (PG-13) Sun 11:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) 10:10, 3:25.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

ENDLESS LOVE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:35, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55, 12:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:35-2:10-4:45-7:20-9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

FROZEN (PG) 9:35, 2:45, 8:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

FROZEN SING ALONG (PG) 12:10, 5:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

GRAVITY 3D (PG-13) 9:40, 1:30, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 10:40. RealD 3D

THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG-13) 9:30, 4:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG-13) 9:40, 3:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

LABOR DAY (PG-13) 5:05, 7:45, 10:20.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) 10:00, 11:35, 1:40, 2:05, 4:10, 4:35, 6:40, 9:10, 11:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D

THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) Fri and Sat 9:30, 10:20, 11:10, 12:00, 12:50, 2:30, 3:20, 5:00, 5:50, 7:30, 8:45, 10:00, 11:15, 12:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00. Digital Presentation;SFF-Sensory Friendly Film; Sun 9:30-10:20-11:10-12:00-12:50-2:30-3:20-5:00-5:50-7:30-8:45-10:00-11:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

LONE SURVIVOR (R) Fri and Sat 12:05, 2:25, 7:45, 9:50, 12:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 12:05-2:25-7:45-9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) Fri 9:50, 11:15, 12:40, 2:05, 3:30, 4:55, 6:15, 7:45, 9:10, 10:35, 12:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 11:15-12:40-2:05-3:30-4:55-6:15-7:45-9:10-10:35-12:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:50-11:15-12:40-2:05-3:30-4:55-6:15-7:45-9:10-10:35-12:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

THE NUT JOB (PG) 10:05, 12:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

PHILOMENA (PG-13) 1:10, 6:35.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation

RIDE ALONG (PG-13) 11:05, 12:20, 1:35, 2:50, 4:05, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

ROBOCOP (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:30, 12:20, 3:10, 6:00, 8:50, 9:20, 11:40, 12:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:30-12:20-3:10-6:00-8:50-9:20-11:40-12:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

ROBOCOP: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30. Digital Presentation;IMAX

THAT AWKWARD MOMENT (R) 11:20, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:05, 11:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

VAMPIRE ACADEMY (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:00, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-4:00-6:30-9:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

WINTER'S TALE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50, 12:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:30-1:20-4:10-7:00-9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) 12:45, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

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12 YEARS A SLAVE (R) 1:20, 7:35.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

ABOUT LAST NIGHT (R) Fri and Sat 9:45, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:15, 2:15, 3:15, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 6:45, 7:45, 9:00, 9:30, 10:30, 11:45, 12:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:45-10:30-11:30-12:30-1:15-2:15-3:15-4:00-5:00-6:00-6:45-7:45-9:00-9:30-10:30-11:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) 10:05, 4:25, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) 11:00, 4:40, 10:15.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

ENDLESS LOVE (PG-13) 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

FROZEN (PG) 1:50, 7:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

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FROZEN SING ALONG (PG) 10:50, 4:50, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

GRAVITY 3D (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:20, 11:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sun 11:05-1:40-4:15-6:50-9:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D

GUNDAY (NR) 12:10, 3:40, 7:10, 10:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation

JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG-13) 8:10, 10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

LABOR DAY (PG-13) Fri 1:45, 10:40.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 1:35-7:35.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 5:15-11:15.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) 10:45, 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D

THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) Fri 10:00, 11:30, 12:45, 2:15, 3:30, 5:00, 6:15, 7:45, 8:45, 10:25, 11:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00. Digital Presentation;SFF-Sensory Friendly Film; Sat 10:15-11:30-12:45-2:15-3:30-5:00-6:15-7:45-8:45-10:25-11:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-11:30-12:45-2:15-3:30-5:00-6:15-7:45-8:45-10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

LONE SURVIVOR (R) 10:25, 1:35, 4:30, 7:25, 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:55, 12:05, 1:55, 3:10, 4:55, 6:10, 7:55, 9:10, 10:55, 12:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:55-12:05-1:55-3:10-4:55-6:10-7:55-9:10-10:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

THE NUT JOB (PG) 10:15, 12:50, 3:20, 5:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

PHILOMENA (PG-13) 2:05, 7:40. 171371;AMC INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video

RIDE ALONG (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:10, 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15, 11:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:10-1:00-3:45-6:30-9:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

ROBOCOP (PG-13) Fri and Sat 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00, 12:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 12:00-3:00-6:00-9:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

ROBOCOP: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 10:20, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20. Digital Presentation;IMAX

ROMEO AND JULIET (BROADWAY HD) (NR) Fri 7:30; Sun 2:00.

SAVING MR. BANKS (PG-13) Fri 10:25, 4:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:25-4:30-10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:45-8:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

THAT AWKWARD MOMENT (R) Fri 10:35, 1:25, 4:05, 6:55, 9:35, 12:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 1:25-4:05-6:55-9:35-12:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:35-1:25-4:05-6:55-9:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

VAMPIRE ACADEMY (PG-13) 10:50, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50. Digital Presentation

WINTER'S TALE (PG-13) 10:15, 1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15. Digital Presentation

THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) 10:40, 2:40, 6:40, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

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ABOUT LAST NIGHT (R) Fri 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 9:00, 10:45, 11:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:00-12:25-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:10-11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

ENDLESS LOVE (PG-13) Fri 12:15, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:00, 11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:10-12:40-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

FROZEN (PG) Fri 1:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 1:05-4:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

FROZEN SING ALONG (PG) Fri 4:30. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:30-3:40. Digital Presentation

THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) Fri 12:00, 5:00, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 11:40-4:15-9:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D

THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) Fri 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:00-11:00-12:30-1:45-3:00-5:30-6:45-7:40-10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

LONE SURVIVOR (R) Fri 7:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 7:30-10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) Fri 1:15, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:20-1:15-4:00-7:00-9:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

RIDE ALONG (PG-13) Fri 1:35, 4:10, 6:40, 9:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

ROBOCOP (PG-13) Fri 12:40, 3:25, 5:05, 7:50, 10:40, 11:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 11:25-2:10-4:55-8:00-10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

THAT AWKWARD MOMENT (R) Fri 2:45, 8:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 2:35-8:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

VAMPIRE ACADEMY (PG-13) Fri 12:30, 6:10. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 12:00-6:10. Digital Presentation

WINTER'S TALE (PG-13) Fri 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:50-1:40-4:25-7:10-9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

Not retiring any time soon

Interview. A Hollywood legend talks playing a character older than herself and defends Hitchcock.

Eva Marie Saint returns to the screen for a cameo in the romantic fantasy "Winter's Tale." / GETTY IMAGES

In the romantic fantasy "Winter's Tale," Eva Marie Saint plays a character who's more than 100 years old. "Made me feel young," Saint cracks, chuckling heartily. She herself is not that old, even if she once made out with Cary Grant in Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 "North by Northwest."

Saint likes that her character is, despite her age, a Manhattan newspaper editor. "She's a professional," she says. "I just prefer to do roles where it's a strong lady and she's not ill and she's not in a wheelchair — and that may happen, and there's nothing wrong with that. But as long as I can portray somebody who still makes a difference in the world, that's what I like to do."

That drive is something she somewhat identifies with too. Now in her late 80s — and still friendly but feisty, warm yet sharp about her long career — Saint has been keeping busy, or as much as she'd like to be. She periodically swings by to do voice work on "The Legend of Korra," the animated sequel to "Avatar: The Last Airbender." That harkens back to her first job in the entertainment business: as a tour guide at NBC studios in New York, where part of her job was demonstrating how sound effects were created.

No doubt she also likes that the role continues a long tradition of playing smart, independent women. She won her Oscar for playing the strong-willed sister of a slain dockworker in 1954's "On the Waterfront." Rather than cash in on her success, she sought the good roles. She returned to drama on television, where she had first made her name, racking up a string of Emmy nominations. (She won in 1990 for "People Like Us.")

Even when she wound up as a glamorous undercover spy in "North by Northwest," it proved a subtly challenging role. Still, she didn't mind being treated like a movie star. She recalls how Hitchcock didn't like the clothes MGM had picked out for her, so he took her to Bergdorf Goodman to choose whatever outfits she wanted. "I sat next to him and he had the models come by. Then one walked by with that black dress [she wore in the movie] and I said, 'Hitch, I like that!'" She then launches into her Hitchcock impersonation: "He said, 'Wrap it up for Miss Saint.'"

She identifies this collaborative move as an example of how Hitchcock wasn't as dismissive of actors as the legend goes. ("I never said all actors are cattle," he once said, debunking the myth. "I said they should be treated like cattle.") When asked about such charges, she swats them down. "I don't want to hear about that — when you have a good friend, and someone starts gossiping about them."

Saint is in fact married to a director: Jeffrey Hayden, who's long worked in television. (He's still working.) She's worked with many herself, from Fred Zinnemann ("A Hatful of Rain") to John Frankenheimer ("All Fall Down" and "Grand Prix") to Vincente Minnelli ("The Sandpiper"). With the breadth of talent comes a breadth of working styles. "If the director is quiet, everyone on the set is quiet. If a director is screaming, everyone has to scream louder than that. But if they're quiet, everybody has to be quiet. My husband's like that. Hitchcock was like that. [Elia] Kazan was like that."

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

Quoted

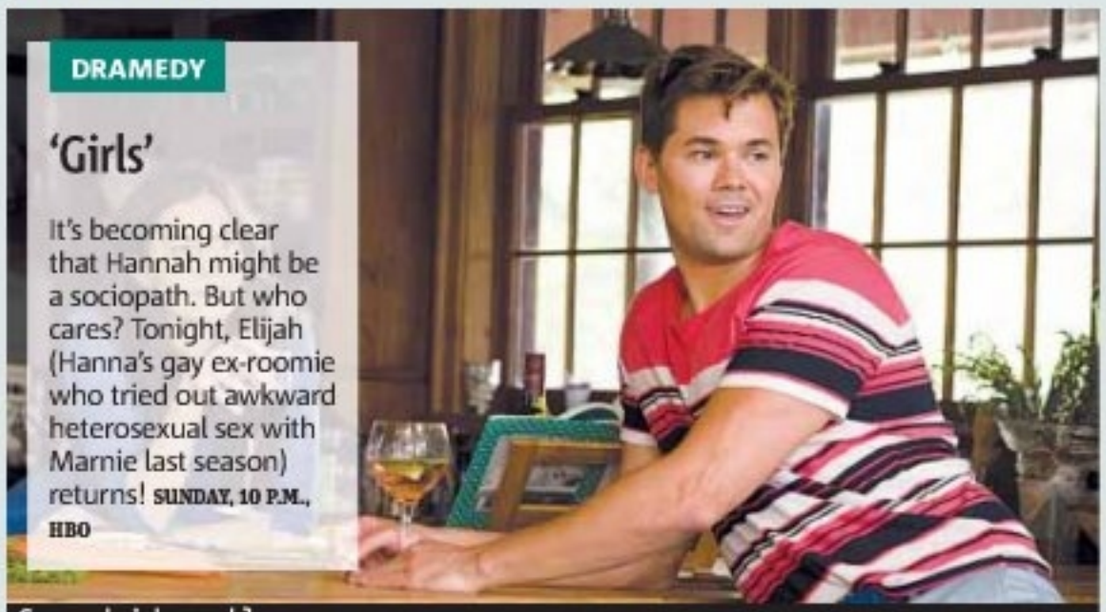
"I just prefer to do roles where it's a strong lady and she's not ill and she's not in a wheelchair — and that may happen, and there's nothing wrong with that. But as long as I can portray somebody who still makes a difference in the world, that's what I like to do."

Loud noises

On Otto

One director who wasn't quiet was Otto Preminger, who directed her in the 1960 founding-of-Israel epic "Exodus." "Once a day he would scream. That's how he got out frustration. So people on the set were nervous because, when is he going to scream? Then he screamed and they were still nervous." Was he charming? "When he wasn't screaming he was."

TV watch list



DRAMEDY

'Girls'

It's becoming clear that Hannah might be a sociopath. But who cares? Tonight, Elijah (Hanna's gay ex-roomie who tried out awkward heterosexual sex with Marnie last season) returns! **SUNDAY, 10 P.M., HBO**

Guess who's baaaack? / MARK SCHAFER

SPECIAL

'Jenny McCarthy's Dirty Sexy Funny'

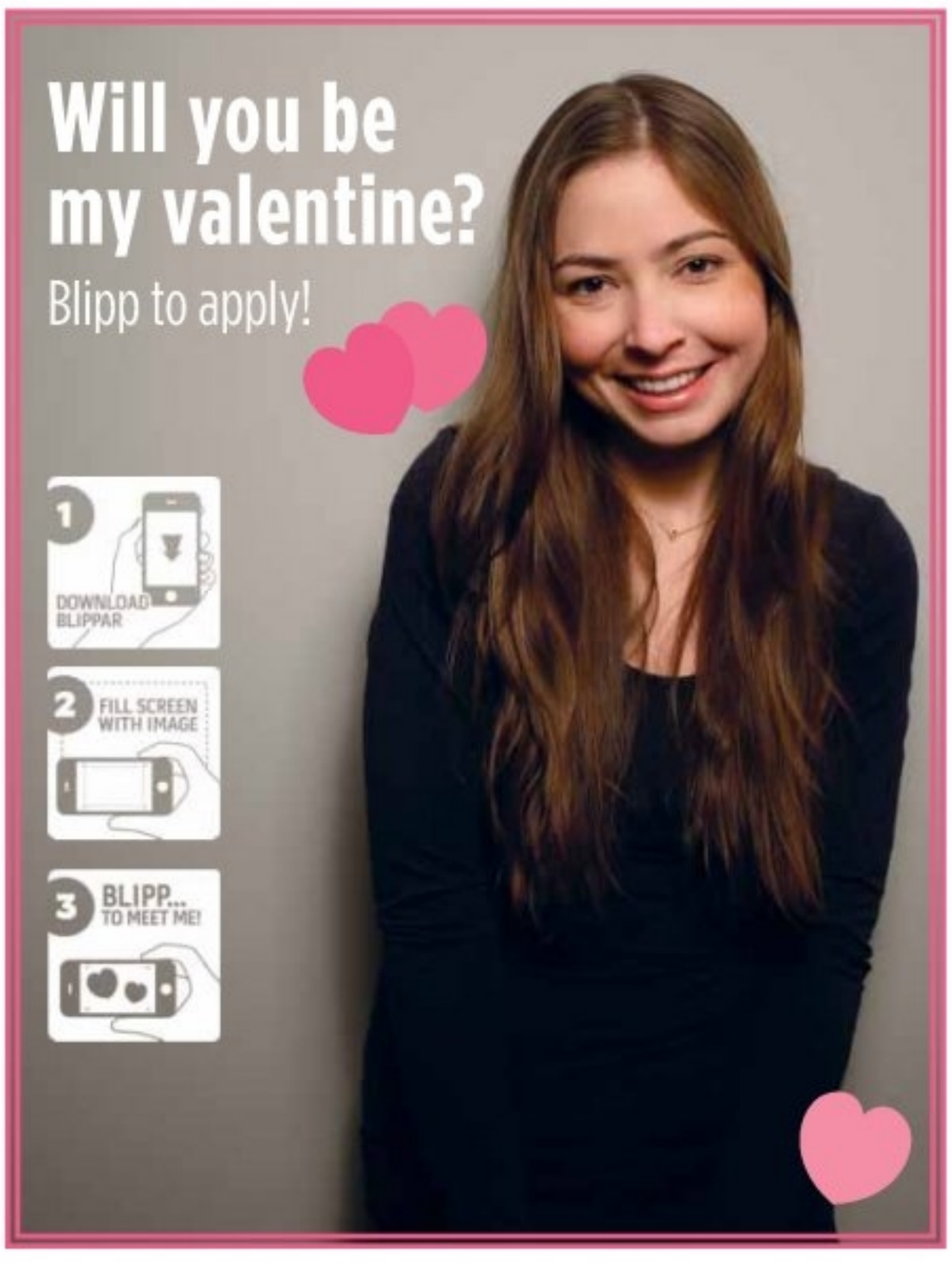
Honestly, it doesn't really matter what Jenny McCarthy does at this point. To us, she will always be the babe who hosted "Singled Out." (And, no offense to Carmen Electra, but she was the best babe who hosted "Singled Out.") What she's doing at this point — other than getting it on with Donnie Wahlberg — is hosting this Valentine's Day comedy special, which features Jenny and five other female comedians we've never really heard of doing raunchy stand-up in honor of the day of luuurv. **FRIDAY, 11 P.M., EPIX**

SPOOKY

'Ghost Adventures'

Season nine of the paranormal investigation show opens with the ghostbusting team looking into an L.A. home that may or may not be haunted by the ghost of Sharon Tate. We're quite frankly still haunted by the legendary Manson murders (seriously, we really can't listen to "Helter Skelter" without getting a tiny bit creeped out), so we're thinking it's entirely possible. **SATURDAY, 9 P.M., TRAVEL**

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO



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Making the night even more Special

Anniversary.
G. Love celebrates 20 years of being on the Sauce.

NOLAN GAWRON
letters@metro.us

It's been two decades since G. Love & Special Sauce got their start, busking at subway stops and plying their craft at local taverns. After pioneering their signature hip-hop/blues sound, G. Love moved to Philly, then back to Boston, changed names (dropping the Special Sauce part) — but now he's going back to his roots. For the first time in eight years, G. Love & Special Sauce are recording and performing as the original trio.

"We're going to do two sets in this show," says Garrett Dutton (aka G. Love). "The first set we're going to play the debut record from start to finish, but the second set we're going to preview our new record, 'Sugar,' and mix it up with some other good stuff."

"Sugar," out April 22 on Jack Johnson's Brushfire label, puts G. Love and the original Special Sauce back in the studio. In some ways it's back to basics, but with 20 years of growing, both musically and personally, there's an undeniable maturity that makes its way into the music. "It's definitely a return to the hip-hop/blues. It's a [throwback] to the original concept. I shouldn't say concept because it just kind of happened, it wasn't thought up. It's the original feeling of the band as well as pushing forward and digging deeper."

G. Love & Special Sauce play Theatre of the Living Arts on Feb. 15 and 16. / PROVIDED

Featuring special guests ranging from Ben Harper to Merry Clayton — renowned backing vocalist for the Rolling Stones — the record touches on relationships, but ascends through its authentic tales of the wear and tear on the life of a traveling performer. There's slightly less machismo, more soul, but all love.

"It's funny because originally I was making this heartbreak record of a failed relationship that I was in," says Dutton. "Then all of these songs had that notion of having the life of a musician — the struggle to come up, the struggle to stay up, and to me that was an interesting thing, and a real thing that I could connect with. That's my life. Over the years you see the dedication and the hustle that it takes just to stay out there doing this thing."

Love advice

Got sauce?

G. Love hits Philly on the weekend of Valentine's Day, and since his music is so smooth, we asked his advice for what to do with your date.

"It's a hard night for the dudes. We've gotta try and please our women. ... There are a couple ways you can win. You can take your girl to a dinner at a place she likes to go and surprise her with that. ... If you definitely wanna have a sure-shot (well, if you're not coming to the show), you could have a nice quiet night at home and cook dinner."

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Spotted. Celebs front row and center at New York Fashion Week

1 Tyra Banks, Olivia Palermo, Sarah Paulson, Katie Holmes and Anna Kendrick at Marchesa

2 Reese Witherspoon and Gwyneth Paltrow at Hugo Boss

3 Diane Kruger at Hugo Boss

GETTY IMAGES

Drake versus Rolling Stone

Drake has a little problem with Rolling Stone.

The singer/actor/Canadian has now sworn off magazine interviews after he claims Rolling Stone tossed his cover for the late Philip Seymour Hoffman for this month's issue — and misquoted him regarding his "mentor" Kanye West's "Yeezus" album.

"There were some real questionable bars on there. Like that 'Swaghili' line? Come on, man. Even Fabolous wouldn't say some s— like that," he supposedly said, which the mag then printed. Drake took to Twitter to recant the line. "I never commented on Yeezus for my interview portion of Rolling Stone," he wrote. "They also took my cover from me last minute and ran the issue."

Regarding the "took my cover" mention — that's media speak for Drake being promised the cover in exchange for the interview. He was apparently then bumped by the editors for Hoffman.

"I'm disgusted with that. RIP to Phillip Seymour Hoffman. All respect due. But the press is evil," he wrote. (It should be noted that all of Drake's tweets have since been deleted.) "I'm done doing interviews for magazines. I just want to give my music to the people. That's the only way my message gets across accurately."

That, or Twitter.

Rolling Stone stands by its story. / A.I.I. PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
@dorothyatmetro
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Lil' Kim expecting a lil' baby

Lil' Kim is going to be a mom. The notorious rapper debuted a growing baby bump at the Blonds Fashion Week afterparty in New York earlier this week, telling Us Weekly, "I can't wait to be a mom!" Kim is keeping the father's identity under wraps for now, and she has no plans of slowing down. "I'm still going to be hardcore. The baby has made me even more of a beast," she said.

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Horoscope

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. Don't feel neglected if someone doesn't go along with your plans. You could go along with the group or spend some time working independently.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Indulge in things you find pleasurable. Soothe your nerves by listening to your favorite music or enjoying a special meal.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Go ahead, make the improvements you have been contemplating. Take the necessary action to reach an important goal.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Go over your records to determine whether you have been careless with money. Be honest with yourself and make adjustments to your budget.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Your outgoing nature will lead to an interesting invitation. Take advantage of the chance to expand your social circle.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. A project will demand your full attention. Resist distractions and maintain your focus until you have perfected your approach.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Time spent worrying is time wasted. Keep your mind off your troubles by accomplishing something uplifting.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Someone may be trying to take advantage of you. Make sure you are aware of what's expected, and don't be coerced into doing something.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Get out and mingle. Sitting at home will only make you more lethargic. Get up and indulge in something you've never done before.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Review contracts before you make a commitment. Make sure everyone is in agreement and that you are being treated fairly.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Enroll in a course, begin a creative endeavor or get involved in a sports activity. You will meet people with similar interests.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Temptation will lead to loss. Resist high-pressure sales tactics, and get all the details before you sign on the dotted line.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	4	7	9					6
9	5		8					
				7				3
3		9	7	1		5		
			3		5			
		5		2	6	1		9
2				8				
					1		9	8
8					9	2	1	

	3						4	
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			3	7	6	5		
		6	1	4	9	8		
				8				
		7	6	2	3	4		
		5	4	6	1			
9		1			8	6		
	8						7	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Temple was a credit to her country

Those of us who remember Shirley Temple and her movies will miss that adorable smile. She was more than a child star of the '30s — in later years, she was a dedicated American who sought to make a difference for the common good. She ended up serving four Republicans presidents in key diplomatic posts. By her service to our country, Shirley Temple Black demonstrated how she loved America; and in return, America loved her back. Rest in peace, Shirley Temple, and thanks for the memories.

FREDERICK R. BEDELL JR., VIA EMAIL

Addicts come with hard truths

Re: 'A friend in need might need friends' (Metro, Feb. 12) Well, obviously letter writer David DiBello has never been involved with an active addict, and to that I say, you should thank God!

I can say that YES they were there, but trying to reason or help an active addict is like trying to reason with a can of soup! You can beg, scream, cry, help and enable. But an addict will do what they want and forsake all others. I know active addiction, I am married to a heroin addict and alcoholic. I lost everything and became homeless because of his addiction. I was manipulated into believing his lies, and I still tried to help him because I loved him. Finally, I had to let go, or I would lose myself. So, maybe that's what happened. They had to let go — remember free will? Think about that before you blame friends and family. Go to a meeting and listen to addicts speak. Or go to an Al-Anon meeting and listen to families speak — before you speak.

MARGARET BRADLEY, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

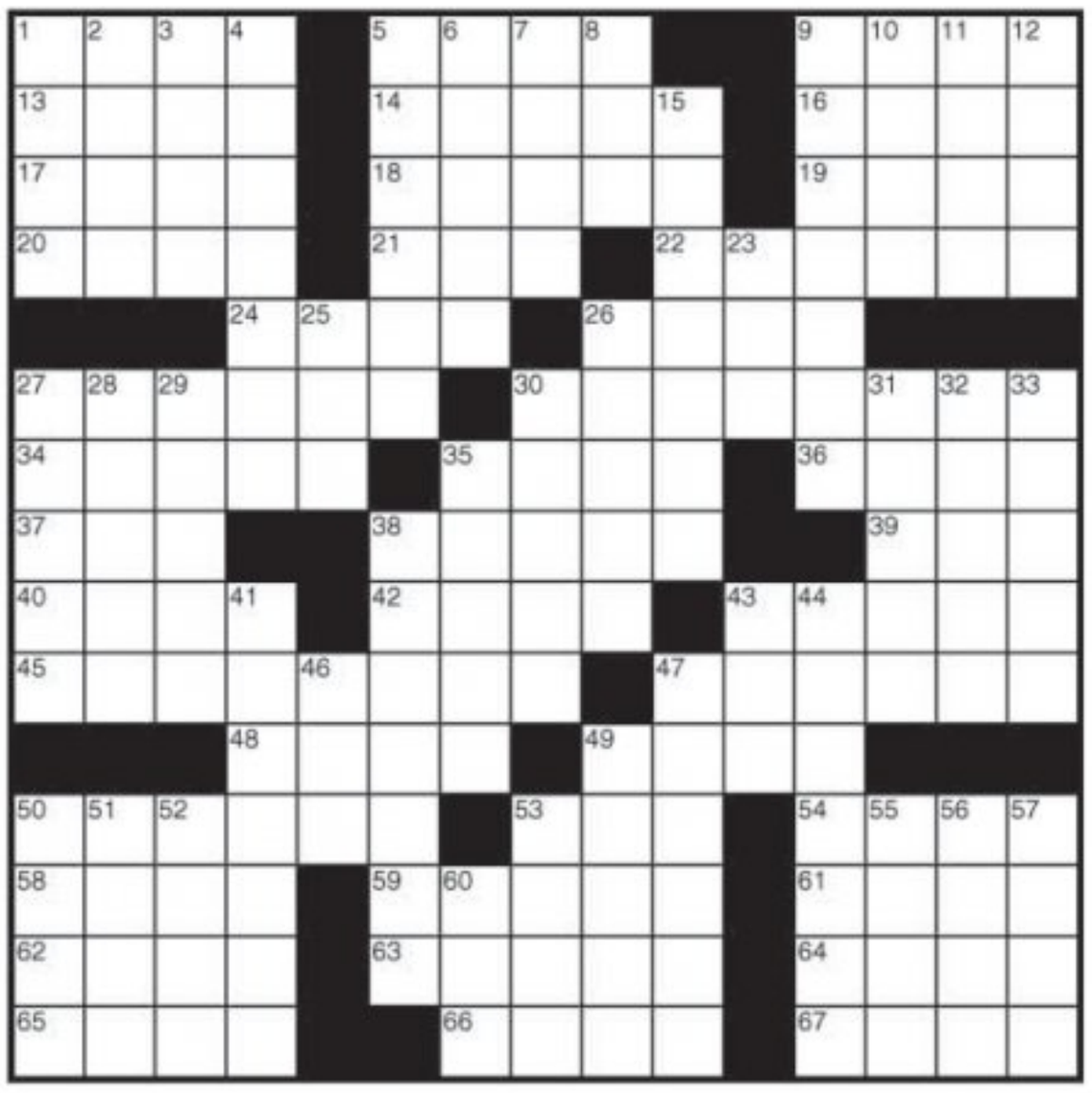
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Crossword

Across
1 Big horn
5 Levee
9 Bakers' meas.
13 Small brown bird
14 Make into law
16 Sincere
17 Gawk at
18 Marshy inlet
19 Sushi-bar soup
20 Thin stratum
21 ER personnel
22 Later (2 wds.)
24 Mayberry kid
26 Low score
27 Funds for research
30 Submissive ones
34 Camel halts
35 Altiplano locale
36 Give a high-five
37 Yellow Pages
38 Horoscope
39 Language suffix
40 Tells tales
42 Corona
43 Champagne glass
45 Raga musician
47 Put varnish on
48 Not coarse
49 Hot rum drink
50 Wear away
53 Moo companion
54 Sign of the future
58 Pants purchase
59 Bawl out
61 Percolate
62 Muslim mystic
63 Three-legged stand
64 Director — Ephron
65 Byron's works
66 — -majeste
67 Break suddenly

Down
1 Couples
2 Argue for
3 Lugosi of "Dracula"
4 Flowerlike fish
5 Flotsam and jetsam
6 Shallow
7 Starr and Lenz
8 Kind of system
9 Powwow drums (hyph.)
10 Quick drive
11 Tijuana coin
12 Powder, to some
15 Ignore (2 wds.)
23 Bruins' ice great
25 Qt. parts
26 Don Diego de la Vega
27 Touchdowns
28 Arm bones
29 Debit's opposite
30 Handed out, as cards
31 Walrus hunter
32 Try a mouthful
33 Burn up the road
35 Temporary state
38 Kind of lantern
41 Veldt vacations
43 Egg — yung
44 Coral-reef pools
46 Disencumber
47 Hold gently
49 Bursts of laughter
50 Lhasa —
51 Modem-speed unit
52 Widespread
53 Big name in speakers
55 Gaze dreamily
56 Philanthropist — Cornell
57 Tide type
60 BTU kin

Thursday's answer



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Phils drop pitcher

Phillies release hurler Gaudin

Just more than a month ago, the Phillies looked to add to their pitching depth by signing veteran righty Chad Gaudin to a minor-league contract.

Many believed he had a good shot at making the team, helping to bolster the Phillies rotation or bullpen as a versatile arm.

But the pitcher failed his physical Wednesday and was released Thursday by the team. GM Ruben Amaro Jr. declined to comment on why Gaudin failed. METRO

Temple postponed

Owls game with Louisville rescheduled

Due to the snowstorm, Temple's Thursday night game against defending national champion No. 13 Louisville has been pushed a day, to Friday night.

Ticket holders can attend the rescheduled game, but are also permitted to exchange them for one of the Owls' three remaining home games, as long as the exchange is made by Feb. 17. METRO

Spencer Hawes and Evan Turner are each having career years, and are rumored to be on the trading block. / GETTY IMAGES

Turner, Hawes could be on move

NBA. The Sixers are reportedly hearing trade offers for Evan Turner and Spencer Hawes.

With the February 20 trade deadline approaching, the Sixers ownership doesn't have much time to finalize their trade proposals to teams throughout the league. If they don't move fast, players like Evan Turner and Spencer Hawes, who are likely not in the teams future plans, could end up playing out the final years of their contracts with the Sixers getting nothing in return.

According ESPN's Zach Lowe, the Sixers will be "super active" in the next week trying to shop these two trade chips.

There's been a lot of talk surrounding Evan Turner this week.

The Charlotte Observer's Tom Sorenson reported on Tuesday that the Bobcats could offer a package which includes the expiring contract of guard Ben Gordon and a 2014 first-round pick for Turner.

Big numbers

Evan Turner and Spencer Hawes are each posting career best numbers.

- Turner is averaging 17.5 points, 5.9 boards and 3.6 assists.
- Hawes is averaging 13.2 points and 8.6 rebounds.

The pick the Bobcats would likely offer is Portland's first-rounder this year, which is currently projected at No. 26.

Turner's name also has appeared in trade talks involving the Spurs, Thunder and Suns.

For Hawes, nothing has officially been reported, but the Blazers had called the Sixers front offices regarding Hawes back in December. With the Blazers' recent injury to Joel Freeland, many target Portland as a potential landing spot for Hawes. It's unclear what the Blazers would be willing to offer.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
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3 SPORTS

Hamels injury update

Amaro says Hamels won't rush

One day after announcing Cole Hamels would likely miss opening day with a bicep injury, Phillies GM Ruben Amaro Jr. announced that "there is no point" in rushing Hamels to pitch. Amaro also told reporters that Cuban acquisition Miguel Gonzalez was definitely going to be a starter, and would report to Triple-A if he did not make the Phillies in spring training.

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ANDY TALLEY

Villanova's head football coach talks about reloading for 2014, facing FBS teams and the Wildcats' chances of leaving the FCS.

WILDCAT WINTER

It sounds like you had a very productive signing day. How are you feeling looking over your incoming freshman class?
I think what happens with the recruiting every year at this level, because you don't have 25 [scholarships] like the [FBS] schools do, you try to cover the areas where you have players graduating and you have slots. We needed one quarterback and I think we got a really good one early in Zach Bednarczyk, and we needed two offensive line men, one receiver, a slot running back and a true running back. You kind of recruit according to positional integrity.

Aside from incoming freshmen, why is this time of year important for a college football program?
Right now, ever since they came back in January, you are trying to get them ready for spring practice. You have 15 days coming up of spring ball, and in the meantime, in addition to getting them ready conditioning-wise, you are trying to get everybody bigger, stronger and faster in the offseason. It's a very critical time for the growth period of a lot of these guys to continue to try and reach their potential physically. All of those components you are looking for in the fall; you're looking for those players who are on the rise to fit into the scheme.

Boston College is a tough way to start a season. Are you excited for the matchup?
We always open up with a [FBS] team, and it's extremely difficult to beat those guys. They are a rough group to play away. You play that game for money; it's a money game. I have never been for those games because nine times out of 10 you lose. We've beaten Rutgers and Temple a couple times, but when you're playing Boston College, Syracuse, West Virginia, Pittsburgh, you're probably going to get beat.

Talk of Nova being an FBS program has mostly dissipated. Is it still something the future might hold?
I think we're going to [remain] an FCS team. There was a lot of drama about the Big East splitting up, and now that they have settled down to really a basketball league, and Villanova basketball is a big part of that, I don't think there is the push now to go [FBS]. There really is no reason to if we are happy at the FCS level; it's a level we can compete in year in and year out, and I think that issue has gone by the boards. We are looking forward to being one of the better teams in the country in FCS.

EVAN MACY
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Talley-ed up

Wildcats head coach Andy Talley has been with Villanova's football squad for 28 seasons.

- Talley has a career record of 191-121-1.
- The coach has eight conference titles in four different conferences.
- Talley and the Wildcats won the 2009 FCS National Championship against Montana.

Q&A

Villanova expects to be back in playoffs

What are your early expectations for 2014?
This season was really disappointing. We averaged 30 points per game offensively and we gave up 22, and normally with those numbers you win eight games. We lost the New Hampshire game by one, the Maine game by three and the Fordham game by three. We had a lot of injuries and they came at the wrong time for us. The way our schedule fell, we ended up playing the really good teams in a row and on the road. We ended up 5-3 in the [Colonial Athletic Association]; 6-2 would have gotten us into the playoffs.

Can close losses like that help a team get hungry and more experienced?
You use it as a motivator. My conversation with the team was that if we had won one one-point game we would have been in the playoffs. ... One of the things we need to accomplish as a program is that when we get into those one-, two- or three-point games, we win them.

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Jurickson Profar was Baseball America's No. 1 prospect entering the 2013 season, so don't worry, one 94-game season does not make a career. / GETTY IMAGES

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Rewind to about 15 months ago, and you couldn't go anywhere in baseball circles without hearing about the game's No. 1 prospect, Jurickson Profar. Now everyone is off him because he struggled to adjust to major league pitching, hitting .234 with six homers and two steals in 286 at-bats. Relax. He was just 20 years old and didn't know where he was playing on a given day as the Rangers shuttled him all over the infield and even the outfield. Now he's the no-doubt second baseman and ready to erupt as part of a potent lineup.

Adam gonna eat

Adam Eaton (relax, not the ex-pitcher) is getting a fresh start with the White Sox after injuries derailed him in Arizona. It's an exciting turn of events. Eaton, a true five-tool outfielder, has an excellent chance to win the starting center field and leadoff job. In his final year as a minor leaguer (with Triple-A Reno in 2012), he hit .381 with seven homers and 38 steals in 119 games.

NBA pickups

Time to scour the waiver wire for these players:

- **Zaza Pachulia, C, Bucks** — In a comedy of a season for the Bucks, Pachulia is the last big man standing.
- **Chris Kaman, C, Lakers** — As long as Pau Gasol (groin) is sidelined, the Lakers will play four guards and Kaman.
- **Chase Budinger, SG, Timberwolves** — Kevin Martin (thumb) is out indefinitely, leaving Budinger to benefit from Kevin Love's double teams.

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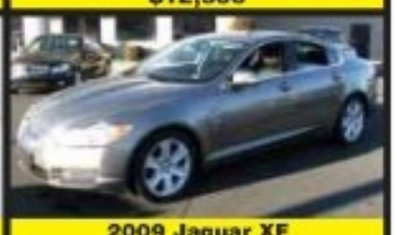

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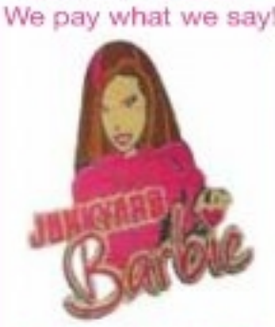

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